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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Rumania

SUBJECT Security Installations and Border Controls Along
Rumanian Border Facing Yugoslavia/Description of Terrain/
Guard Towers and Border Guards

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. "From a boat which was traveling downstream on the Danube [redacted] along the Yugoslav-Rumanian border, it was possible to see all the installations denying access to an exit from Rumania. Beyond Bazias, first port city on the Danube within Rumanian territory quite near Cetate, the Rumanian territory is protected by an uninterrupted line of barbed-wire entanglements and guard towers. This line is about 25 kilometers long, and the terrain is considerably varied from the topographic standpoint. Between Bazias and Turmu Severin it is for the most part flat along the water, but there are large areas over distances amounting to kilometers where the crags rise directly out of the waves of the Danube, but going from Turmu Severin upstream, the terrain begins to extend and the plain follows.
2. "The defense system is set up as follows: 10-20 meters from the water, the land is ploughed by tractors. [redacted] tractors were ploughing the ground next to the barbed-wire entanglements, particularly at Tisovita [sig] and Plasivevita [sig] and in the Ostrovul Mare region. They were working anew the already worked land which settles, hardens, and loses its freshness as a result of rain. This strip of ploughed land is 5-10 meters [wide]; in any case, it is wide enough so that a fugitive cannot jump over it without touching the ground. Therefore, the strip is reworked and renovated often.
3. "The barbed-wire entanglements extend for 250 kilometers and are interrupted on the Rumanian side only in the Cazare [sig], Iron Gates, and Varciorova areas. In the latter areas, the walls of the rocks constitute insurmountable obstacles for anyone coming from Yugoslavia to Rumania, without constituting the same obstacle for persons who wish to leave Rumania secretly by diving into the Danube. But to oppose these latter persons, there are fixed control posts and patrols which are very close together along these sections

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of the river. The barbed wire is strung on wooden posts, two meters high, and the barbed-wire strands are so numerous and entangled that it is not possible to go through them without using wire cutters. The river boat pilots along the Danube say that the barbed wire is charged with electric current at all times and that by touching it one sets off signal bells in the guard posts by day, or by night sets off colored flares which alert the border guards. [REDACTED] did not see any of these flares [REDACTED]

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4. "Then [spaced] at a distance of 400 meters, there are the guard towers, which are five to six meters high, made of wood and have a platform with closed railings and windows [adjustable ?] against the wind. They are all equipped with powerful searchlights which at night converge their light beams on all parts of the area.
5. "The frontier guards, who keep the guard towers constantly manned, may be seen often (just as the patrols are) moving along determined routes always in teams of two armed men. [REDACTED] did not see any dogs accompanying the border guards, but [REDACTED] it is possible that at more exposed points there are also dogs who accompany the border guards night and day."

-end-



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